

## STABBED AND DYING

**A Murder Committed at the Soldiers' Home.**

## TWO AGED VETERANS FIGHT

**Peter Thomas Kills James Johnson With a Jack-Knife—He Severs a Femoral Artery Death Will Ensnare.**

James Johnson, aged 70 years, and Peter Thomas, aged 72 years, both colored, quarreled over politics at the Soldiers' home last night, with the result that the latter fatally stabbed the former in the left groin, severing the femoral artery.

Johnson, who draws a pension of \$12 per month, came to town during the afternoon to have his pension voucher audited. He returned about 3 o'clock well filled with liquor and very quarrelsome. He proceeded to the apartment where he lived, and there he met Peter Thomas, who was also there. Johnson, who was a former soldier, and Thomas, who was a former sailor, began to quarrel over politics. Johnson, who was a Republican, and Thomas, who was a Democrat, began to quarrel over politics. Johnson, who was a Republican, and Thomas, who was a Democrat, began to quarrel over politics.

"I thought you were a temperance man," said Thomas to Johnson. "You said there was no meat for supper, and we had pork and beans. That's just the way with you republicans."

"Republicans are 'bout as good as you d—n democrats," retorted Johnson. "Now don't you begin to abuse the democrats," exclaimed Thomas. "Democrats are just as good as republicans."

"What did the democrats ever do for you?" said Johnson. "You always stick up for the democrats and you ought to be a republican."

"I stick up for just whoever I please. I'm a free American citizen, I is."

An exchange of words similar to the above continued until the men began to call each other hard names. Johnson made a rush for Thomas, who picked up Curry's cane from the end of a cot and dealt Johnson several blows over the head. Finally the latter grappled with Thomas and

Johnson throwing Thomas down and kicking him in the face, side and back. Thomas called for some one to take Johnson off, saying he could defend himself if he once gained his feet. Curry is lame in both legs and Clark is maimed. Both left the room, the former summoning Sergeant Chatfield, who rushed into the room and separated the combatants. He clung to Johnson and ordered Thomas to leave the room. Before he could do so Johnson broke away and made a lunge at him. Sergeant Chatfield, who is small, was unable to control the two men and went for assistance. Clark stood in the doorway and saw the fight to the finish. For a moment furious blows were exchanged. Then they separated. Thomas reached his hand in his pocket and pulled out a jack knife with a wooden handle and a blade about three inches long. Johnson came for Thomas again as he approached. Thomas struck him, cutting a gash about an inch long and quite deep in the right side of Johnson's head. Instead of checking Johnson's onslaught this seemed to increase his fury and he made another rush. Thomas slashed again with an upward stroke, forcing the blade up to the hilt in Johnson's left groin, severing the femoral artery. Johnson staggered back, exclaiming that he had been cut. He managed to make his way to the door and walked down the hallway a short distance, when he sank to the floor. Every step he took the blood spurted in streams from the wound, saturating the floor. By this time Commandant McKee, Quartermaster Shank and Superintendent Chatfield reached the scene. Johnson was sent to the hospital, where Dr. D. C. Spaulding, the Home physician attended him.

Thomas made no attempt to get away, but sat down on the edge of a cot. Two men were placed in charge of him. Sheriff McQuinn was notified and Deputy Sheriff Beaver detailed to place Thomas under arrest. Beaver went to the home, brought him back and locked him up. Thomas was seen in his cell by a reporter for THE HERALD, to whom

**He Told His Story.**

"Johnson made me first, and to defend myself I struck him with the cane. He threw me down and kicked me about the face and head. Then he came at me again and I stabbed him in self-defense. The whole trouble arose over politics. I don't know just how the argument started, but think it was something about upper. Now, don't write that I am an ugly man, because I am not. I am a peaceable man and did this only in self-defense."

At the soldiers' home the records of the two men were ascertained. Peter Thomas enlisted in the Thirty-first regiment, United States colored troops, at Schenectady, June 24, 1864, and was a member of Company C. He was married twice. His second wife and four children are living at Flint, this state, from which place he was sent to the home three years ago.

Johnson enlisted in the One Hundred and Twentieth Mich. Colored troops at St. Joseph, Mich., October 27, 1863. He went to the home from this city about one year ago. He has never been admitted, but kept on the "T. A. Y." list. (Temporary at Post.) In making application he said his nearest kin was a wife living at No. 330 Taylor street, this city. Since that time he has married another woman and she was with him last night.

Thomas' record for good behavior is fair. He had a fight with Samuel Forest, the old soldier who walked out of the window a few weeks ago, in which his right arm was broken. Otherwise he was regarded as being an orderly inmate. He draws a pension of \$12 per month.

**Johnson's Record in Detail.**

Quartermaster Shank said Johnson has always been an ugly, quarrelsome disposition. He was a republican, and thought an especial amount here was to convert his colored brethren to the

## DECLARES IT A PLOT

**Dr. Scudder Denies That He Killed His Mother-in-Law.**

## ACCUSES HIS WIFE'S FRIEND

**He Wildly Asserts That They Are Trying to Ruin Him—Believed to Be Shamming Insanity.**

CHICAGO, March 4.—Of all the cases that came before Judge Brown in the insane court at the detention hospital today, that of Dr. Henry Martyn Scudder, Jr., was first called. Dr. Scudder himself was not brought in. All negotiations were conducted by George W. Wilbur, Scudder's attorney. He appeared before Judge Brown and asked for a continuance of the case until next Friday morning, which was granted without argument.

There was a double reason for the continuance. Scudder's friends were not yet ready to have the question of his sanity brought to issue, and the physicians at the detention hospital desired more time to observe the prisoner's actions and learn his real condition. There being criminal charges behind those of insanity, the question arose whether or not Scudder was feigning insanity to save himself from the criminal court.

Dr. Lyman, the insanity expert, went into Scudder's cell with the accused man's brother, Dr. Doremus Scudder, and his attorney, Mr. Wilbur. But Dr. Lyman refused to make any statement regarding his mental condition.

**The Doctor Denies It.**

Dr. Scudder, from his cell in the detention hospital, emphatically denied that he murdered his mother-in-law, Mrs. F. H. Dunton, and wildly asserted that his arrest was the result of a diabolical plot concocted by his wife's relatives. He was asked what he had to say in regard to the charge of murder brought against him.

"Murder!" screamed the doctor. "It's a damnable lie. I know nothing about it. Oh, yes, I believe they did say something, but I was too sick to pay any attention to it."

"Then you deny that you are guilty of murder?"

The doctor, apparently by a great effort, grew calm and replied: "Such an idea is nonsense, utter nonsense. I say it is preposterous. It is the result of a hellish plot. Do you think I would kill an old woman who only had a few months to live at best. Rot and nonsense!"

The doctor then grew wild. Making a sudden spring in the direction of the reporter he waved his arms and shouted, "You look like the man who came sneaking around to my window last night and peered in at me. I believe you are the man. He was a perfect fiend. All night long he leered and smirked at me through the bars of the window. I could not sleep and he would not go away. Now you have come here to torment me."

The doctor then suddenly dropped into bed, turned his face to the wall and drew the bedclothes over his head. Fully five minutes were spent by the attendant in a vain endeavor to rouse him. He, however, stubbornly held the bedclothes over his head and refused to respond to further questioning.

**Believed to Be Shamming.**

The reporter and attendant left the room, locked the door and remained watching at the "peep hole." Not a minute had elapsed before the doctor had uncovered his head and glanced around the cell. Then he placed his hand beneath his head, uttered a sigh of relief and reclined in an easy position. The interview was ended and the doctor of insanity had been completely left the doctor's face.

"What do you think of him?" was asked Attendant Donnelly. The attendant, who for several years had charge of a ward at the Dunning asylum and who knows insanity when he sees it, shrugged his shoulders and said:

"A sham, a perfect sham. Pretty clever at it, though, wasn't he? Rather overdid the matter, though. Why, I would stake my life there is nothing the matter with that man. I've seen and handled every phase of insanity, and if that man's insane so are you and I. I could hardly keep from laughing at the whole thing. Did you notice how disappointed he looked when he sprang toward you and saw that it didn't frighten you? He might fool some people, but he isn't fool me. I don't believe he is even sick."

**JANEVILLE, Wis., March 4.**—The autopsy on the body of Mrs. Dunton was completed this evening. The report of the examiner made to the Chicago authorities shows the woman met her death by violence and fully confirms the theory that she was murdered. Six external injuries and five fractures of the skull were found.

**Collision at South Boardman.**

**SOUTH BOARDMAN, Mich., March 4.**—Yesterday at about 1:40 p. m. a northern bound freight ran into the rear end of a caboose attached to a freight standing on the main track. But within the switch limits, at this place. The incoming train was running contrary to rules, but according to custom, the speed could not be slackened in time to save a collision. The engine of the one train and caboose of the other were damaged some. The wife of Brakeman Hobbs, riding in the rear caboose, was injured slightly about the head. Conductor Digby has a bruised arm.

**Its Usual Business.**

**WASHINGTON, March 4.**—When the house reassembled at 8 p. m. there was less than a quorum present. Kilgour of Texas raised the point of no quorum and after a fruitless attempt to secure one, the house at 9:30 adjourned until tomorrow without transacting any business whatever.

**Delegates Elected.**

**LINCOLN, Neb., March 4.**—The prohibition state convention for the election of delegates to the national convention concluded its session this evening. Delegates to the national convention were selected and the platform adopted renounces adherence to the cause of prohibition.

**Answer of the Combine.**

**NEWARK, N. J., March 4.**—The battle against the "meat combine" of Chicago, which was begun before the two vice chancellors in the chancery chambers Wednesday, was continued today. The answer of the defendants was read. It sets forth that there was no collusion

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It became evident that Mr. Richardson was not very clear why he should take the child because of his wife's religious belief, so the colored took him up on the objection he had raised to the long-haired people themselves. The witness got rather rattled. After he had answered many questions he said that he would be willing to pay for the child's support whether the mother returned or not as he thought that a reconciliation would result much sooner than otherwise.

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**DEMOCRATS AND ALLIANCE.**

**They Will Probably Unite Their Causes in Kansas.**

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**Two Colorado Men Lose Their Lives by a Cave-In.**

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**John Fiske Analyzes the Man and His Wonderful Character.**

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## THREW LYE ON HER HUSBAND.

**A Man and Two Children Fatally Burned.**

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 4.—Mrs. Mary Galvin, of Duquesne, last night saw her husband enter the residence of a Hungarian named Bohar, where two concubines were living. Hurrying after him she entered the house and began a tirade against the occupants of the house, and especially her husband. He denied there was any ground for her insane jealousy.

Finally she picked up a bucket of concentrated lye with which the Hungarian women intended to scrub, and saying "I will spoil your face and stop your running around," threw it in his face.

The lye ran down over his shoulders and breast, burning him so that death may result. Two children of the Hungarians were asleep on a bed in the room and a portion of the burning fluid splashed over their faces and bodies, endangering their lives. The woman was arrested.

**Canada's New Policy.**

OTTAWA, Ont., March 4.—In order to enable the dominion government more effectively to carry out the vigorous immigration policy they propose inaugurating, it has been decided that the control of immigration shall be transferred from the minister of agriculture to the minister of the interior, that all matters pertaining to immigration shall be under the management of the department controlling settlers' lands in the northwest. The immigration policy of the government is to be thoroughly reformed this year. The attention of parliament has been directed to an exodus of 255 Polish families, now resident in Renfrew, Ontario, to Brazil, to where they have determined to emigrate. Rather a serious commentary on the government's present immigration policy.

**Buried in a Tunnel.**

LOCKPORT, N. Y., March 4.—The Niagara Falls tunnel accident of Wednesday resulted more disastrously than was at first thought. The contractors gave out that only one man was injured and denied the statements of some of the workmen who were employed in that part of the tunnel where the roof and timber supports fell in, that there were more men buried in the debris. Robert Addison had a leg broken in two places and his spine dislocated. He cannot recover. Two other men were also injured, but not seriously. Workmen who were employed there stated that five men are missing and are supposed to be buried. The men working at the heading were Italians, Hungarians and negroes.

**PRESENTED THE BANNER.**

**A Memorable Evening at Grand Rapids Post.**

A very pleasant event occurred last evening in Shanahan's hall on Plainfield avenue, the place of meeting of Grand Rapids City Post No. 408, G. A. R. This post is the youngest in the city and the generous citizens of the north end contributed funds for the purchase of a flag which was procured, and the formal presentation was made last evening. The hall was well filled with invited guests which were composed of citizens and representatives of the several posts in the city. The meeting was presided over by Commander McClintock, and music was furnished by Arthur Kromer, Captain G. E. Jud, Maurice Shanahan and Mr. Herrick. The committee on arrangements consisted of Commander McClintock, E. G. Child and C. W. Duggie. The flag was formally presented to the post by Maurice Shanahan. It is a beautiful silk banner made at a cost of \$75. Mr. Shanahan said that the American flag had been the constant companion of the nation in its prosperity and through the years of tribulation, and as the Grand Army of the Republic is an association founded upon patriotic principles he had much pleasure in saluting it to act as the guardian of the national design. At the close of Mr. Shanahan's presentation the comrades all arose and saluted the flag. It was accepted by Comrade W. T. Johnson on behalf of the post. He responded with an appropriate speech and expressed the thanks of the post to the generous donors. Judge Burlingame was introduced and spoke of the condition of the country at the beginning of the war and said that the soldier found the country in slavery and gave it freedom, and today the star spangled banner is waving over the land of the free and the home of the brave. He thanked the comrades for the opportunity of meeting the aristocracy of the country, the men who saved it. Senator Peter Doran gave the old veterans credit for bringing about a brotherly feeling between the north and the south, and said he always had been in favor of providing for the care of the old soldier or his widow. He didn't serve in the ranks during the war for two reasons. One was that he was too young, the other that he wasn't in this country at the time. If he had been here, the Senator thought, he would have been a drummer boy and a member of the G. A. R. today.

Commandant McKee of the Soldiers' home was called upon to address the gathering. After a few introductory remarks the speaker said he never attended a meeting where so much harmony of sentiment prevailed, and as the hour was getting late, he would not inflict a speech upon his comrades. Commandant McKee was followed by Commander William L. Bailey of Champlain Post, and Commander C. S. Coffin of Custer Post. Miss May Chamberlain and Master George Price entertained the audience with several recitations. Comrade E. A. Dapper gave a short address, after which the audience adjourned to the room below, where refreshments were served.

Among those who contributed to the fund for purchasing the flag for Grand Rapids City Post was Senator Stockbridge of Kalamazoo.

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